

National Father's Return Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

I certainly appreciate the chance to participate in this resolution, which was the idea and the initiative of the Senator from Connecticut, who has so many good ideas in the area of trying to improve family values in our Nation.

So it is a pleasure for me to join with him on this resolution, to be a cosponsor of this resolution, and participate in offering it today.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. TORRICELLI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, of the 40 minutes reserved for the minority leader, 10 minutes be yielded to me and 10 minutes to Senator REED of Rhode Island. I assume that would still accommodate the Senator from Connecticut. That would leave 20 minutes.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank my friend from New Jersey. I have access to the time allotted to the Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Will the Senator from New Jersey allow the Senator from Connecticut to go forward in conjunction with this resolution?

Mr. TORRICELLI. If that is the Senator's wish.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. If it fits the Senator's schedule. I don't expect to take but 10 minutes.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, if I could amend my unanimous consent request that Senator LIEBERMAN be allowed to proceed, followed by myself for 10 minutes and Senator REED of Rhode Island for 10 minutes, and, furthermore, that Rebecca Morley, a fellow of Senator REED, be given access to the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object, and a friendly amendment of 10 minutes for the Senator from Illinois named DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection, with the suggested amendment?

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I further request that be amended to ask that Senator COLLINS have 10 minutes at the conclusion of the Senators who have just spoken.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. To restate the unanimous consent request, the Chair understands the request to be the Senator from Connecticut be allowed to go forward for 10 minutes at this time, followed by the Senator from New Jersey, the Senator from Rhode Island, the Senator from Illinois, and then—

Mr. GREGG. The Senator from Maine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine—each for 10 minutes, respectively.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and that Rebecca Morley, a fellow with Senator REED, be granted privileges of the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I yield 10 minutes of my time to the Senator from Connecticut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

#### NATIONAL FATHER'S RETURN DAY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, for most of us, Father's Day, which of course is this coming Sunday, is a special day of love, family, appreciation, a customary time for giving ties and, if you will allow me, for renewing ties of a different sort. But for a staggering number of American children, there will be no ties of either kind to celebrate this Sunday. The sad reality is that an estimated 25 million children—more than 1 out of 3—live absent their biological father, and 17 million kids live without a father of any kind. About 40 percent of the children living in fatherless households have not seen their dads in at least a year; and 50 percent of children who don't live with their fathers have never stepped foot in their father's home.

This growing crisis of father absence in America is taking a terrible toll on these children who are being denied the love, guidance, discipline, emotional nourishment, and daily support that fathers can provide. As dads disappear, the American family is becoming significantly weaker and less capable of fulfilling its fundamental responsibility of nurturing and socializing children and conveying values to them. In turn, the risks to the health and well-being of America's children are becoming significantly higher.

Children growing up without fathers, research shows, are far more likely to live in poverty, to fail in school, to experience behavioral and emotional problems, to develop drug and alcohol problems, to be victims of physical abuse and neglect and, tragically, to commit suicide. It is, of course, not just those children individually who are suffering but our society as a whole. Many mothers and fathers are so busy today that they are less involved in their children's lives than in the past. But this absence is particularly consequential when it comes to fathers, for they play such a critical role in socializing and providing boundaries to children, particularly to boys.

The devastating consequences of father absence for communities—and particularly urban communities—has been broadly documented in a report

released just this week by the Institute For American Values and the Morehouse Research Institute. The report was titled "Turning the Corner on Father Absence in Black America." It was discussed in a powerful column by Michael Kelly, which appeared in Wednesday's Washington Post.

I ask unanimous consent that the entirety of Mr. Kelly's column be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### A NATIONAL CALAMITY

So now we are four, as along comes Jack, 8 pounds, 4 ounces, to join Tom, who for the record welcomes this development; and now I know what my job will be for the remainder of my days. I will be the man sitting behind the driver's wheel saying: Boys, listen to your mother.

This is a good job, and one of the better things about it is the nice clarity it lends to life. Fathers (and mothers) relearn that the world is a simple enough place. They discover that their essential ambitions, which once seemed so many, have been winnowed down to a minimalist few: to raise their children reasonably well and to live long enough to see them turn out reasonably okay. This doesn't seem like a great deal to ask for until you find out that it is everything to you. Because, it turns out, you are everything to them.

We know this not just emotionally but empirically. We know—even Murphy Brown says so—that both fathers and mothers are essential to the well-being of children. Successive studies have found that children growing up in single-parent homes are five times as likely to be poor, compared with children who have both parents at home. They are twice as likely (if male, three times as likely) to commit a crime leading to imprisonment. They are more likely to fail at school, fail at work, fail in society.

What, then, would we say about a society in which the overwhelming majority of children were born into homes without fathers and who grew up, in significant measure, without fathers? We would say that this society was in a state of disaster, heading toward disintegration. We would say that here we had a calamity on a par with serious war or famine. And, if that society were our own, we would, presumably, treat this as we would war or famine, with an immediate and massive mobilization of all of our resources.

Of course, this society is our own. Of black children born in 1996, 70 percent were born to unmarried mothers. At least 80 percent of all black children today can expect that a significant part of their childhood will be spent apart from their fathers.

Millions of America's children live in a state of multiplied fatherlessness—that is, in homes without fathers and in neighborhoods where a majority of the other homes are likewise without fathers. In 1990, 3 million children were living in fatherless homes located in predominantly fatherless neighborhoods—neighborhoods in which a majority of the families were headed by single mothers. Overwhelmingly, those children were black.

These figures, and most of the others that follow, come from a report, "Turning the Corner on Father Absence in Black America," released to no evident great concern this week by the Morehouse Research Institute and the Institute for American Values.

As the report notes, things were not always thus. In 1960, when black Americans